



GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION - Missouri

Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing.

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. Be an Active-level paid national member of Educators Rising for the current school year. State level membership must be paid, if applicable. No Missouri dues for high school and middle school students. Collegiate Missouri dues are \$17.
2. Top five state finishers MAY sign up to compete at the national conference and submit any required materials by the stated deadline through the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal.
This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.
3. Register to attend the Educators Rising Missouri Conference for state entry, national conference for national entry.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competition entries. Not all competitions are open to all divisions.
 - Middle School level — Grades 7, 8
 - High School Junior Varsity level — Grades 9, 10
 - High School Varsity level — Grades 11, 12
 - Collegiate level — Undergraduates only
- Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If there are not at least three competitors registered for a competition in a division, the competitors will be moved to the next highest division. The collegiate division will compete in their own division regardless of the number of competitors.
- All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
- For teams consisting of students of varying grade levels, the team will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions. Visit bit.ly/EdRisingAffiliates to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top ten places in each competition for each division offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions.
- For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.
 - For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place sixth or lower in your state-level Impromptu Speaking competition or don't compete in the state level competitions at all — you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

Eligibility

- Students must be a paid Active-level student member of Educators Rising no later than February 1 of the year in which they are competing.
- Students may enter up to a total of two events. This can be either two individual events, two team events, or one individual and one team event.
- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event per division and one team for team events per division.

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Speaking at the Educators Rising National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Competition Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2020-2021 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- **In order to be scheduled to compete in a national or Missouri competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by the deadlines stated.**
 - Each competition guideline, along with virtual norms, will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification.
 - ***Students who have won state-level competitions must also submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.***
- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any materials or forms submitted at previous state or local presentations need to be resubmitted for the national competition in order to count in national competitions.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be in .mp4 format. Videos that are not in this file format will not be accepted and will be immediately disqualified. Videos will not be accepted by mail. The maximum file size for any video submitted in advance is 2 GB. Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA in regard to student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.

- Students need to arrange to be at a location with reliable Internet access sufficient for video meetings during their scheduled meeting with judges.

Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All state level competitors must attend Educators Rising Missouri conference. All national competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** Both conferences are virtual in 2021.
- Competitors must connect to their live session with judges on time, and wait to be allowed in from the waiting room. Missouri competition schedule will be sent out Feb. 26. National competition schedules will be posted in the Educators Rising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to the conference.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire, even for virtual meetings. **(See the section Competition Dress Code for details on what is acceptable.)** Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in disqualification of the contestant.
- Teacher Leaders, chaperones, and parents are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a national office staff member, or state conference staff.

Competition Dress Code:

All competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire when competing. Refer to the guidelines below for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual."

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants**
Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, and nice-looking dress synthetic pants are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants such as those in which people wear for biking.

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- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits**
Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.
- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets**
Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts are acceptable. Educators Rising polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.
- **Shoes and Footwear**
Conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Flashy athletic shoes, thongs, flip-flops, and slippers are not acceptable.
- **Hats and Head Covering**
Hats are not appropriate inside of the building. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed.

Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competitive entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and Educators Rising MO conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics

taken from the internet, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.

Electronic Devices

- Recording devices are not allowed in competitive events.
- Special approval from the event coordinator and the competitor is required before any event may be recorded.
- All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.

Student Responsibilities for Competitions

- Students and advisors must routinely check the EdRising Membership Portal for updated information about general rules and competitive event guidelines
- Students who participate in any Educators Rising competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.
- National: Certificates awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each category. Missouri: Awards to top five entries.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising and Educators Rising Missouri the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website, Membership Portal, and social media sites.



National entries will be submitted through the **EDRISING MEMBERSHIP PORTAL** (members.pdkintl.org) in the **STUDENT RESOURCES SECTION**.

Missouri entry information at www.mnea.org/EdRising.

Have any questions? CALL 800-766-1156 or email

INFO@EDUCATORSRISING.ORG for national, Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org for MO

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered,
and on the official schedule for nationals!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: **FEBRUARY 1, 2021 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: **APRIL 19, 2021 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.
- Log in to the EdRising Membership Portal, go to the Educators Rising High School Resources section, and click on the Student Resources tab.** Select the competition you are interested in from the list. Read the guidelines and rubrics and then click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online platform.
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/videos, and submit.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged **before** the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them. Many points have been lost in past years by competitors who had many spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors in their work.

*You must complete and submit the online application by the deadline stated in the Student Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. **Participating at a state or regional conference does not provide a pass on completing this process.***

- Print and save your confirmation email.** You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** All national conference information, including how to register, can be found in the Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal.
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete on-site.** Competition schedules will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. After this date, you can log in and go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules.
- Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- See you at Nationals!** The top 10 for each competition will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on the final day of the conference. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference that you can attend this final celebration.